The STATE HORNET

The voice of Sacramento State since 1949.

ISSUE 24, VOLUME 71 | APRIL 6, 2017 | WWW.STATEHORNET.COM

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REPORTING ON ALTERNATIVE FACTS

Join us for a discussion about the current climate of journalism and how to effectively fact-check, hosted by the Society of Professional Journalists at Sac State and The State Hornet.

Chris Nichols leads Capitol Public Radio's fact-checking team PolitiFact California

Christopher Cadelago is a political reporter for the Sacramento Bee

Melanie Mason covers state government and politics for the L.A. Times in Sacramento

TUESDAY, APRIL 11
6:00 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M.
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SPJ State At Sacramento

Moderated by A.G. Block, previous editor at the California Journal magazine and co-founder of the UC Center Journalism Program

The STATE HORNET

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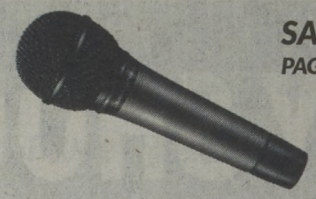

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FEATURED SOCIAL MEDIA

Sacramento State's own version of "James and the Giant Peach" — featuring a 15-member ensemble cast and giant puppets — premiered on April 5 at the University Theatre. Go backstage of the production with our video on Youtube.com/StateHornet.

A group of Sacramento State student organizations and clubs organized a two-day protest that ended on March 30 which was aimed at spreading awareness about the struggles of groups such as undocumented immigrants, women of color and LGBT individuals. Follow @TheStateHornet and @SH_Sports for more live-tweeting from campus events.

A #PhotoOfTheDay last week featured a fundraiser hosted by the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity on March 30 outside Parking Structure II. The fundraiser let people bash the windows in on two cars at a rate of $10 per six hits to raise money for its foundation, The Ability Experience, which benefits people with disabilities.

NEWS IN BRIEF

OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK: Student Health and Counseling Services and the Sacramento State Active Minds chapter are presenting the Out of the Darkness Walk, a fundraising event for American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, today starting at 4 p.m. in front of The WELL. Jody Nelsen, wife of Sac State president Robert Nelsen, will give the keynote address. Nelsen's son, Seth, died by suicide at the age of 25.

To stay up to date with news, go to statehornet.com/news

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CORRECTIONS

In Volume 71, Issue 23 of The State Hornet, there are no corrections listed.

Cover image by David Richards

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WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT ASI?

MATTHEW DYER - The State Hornet

ASI President Patrick Dorsey comments on a presentation about the new student center at the ASI Board meeting in the University Union, Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2016.

A student government guide for the apathetic or uninformed voter

John Ferrannini
@jferrnews

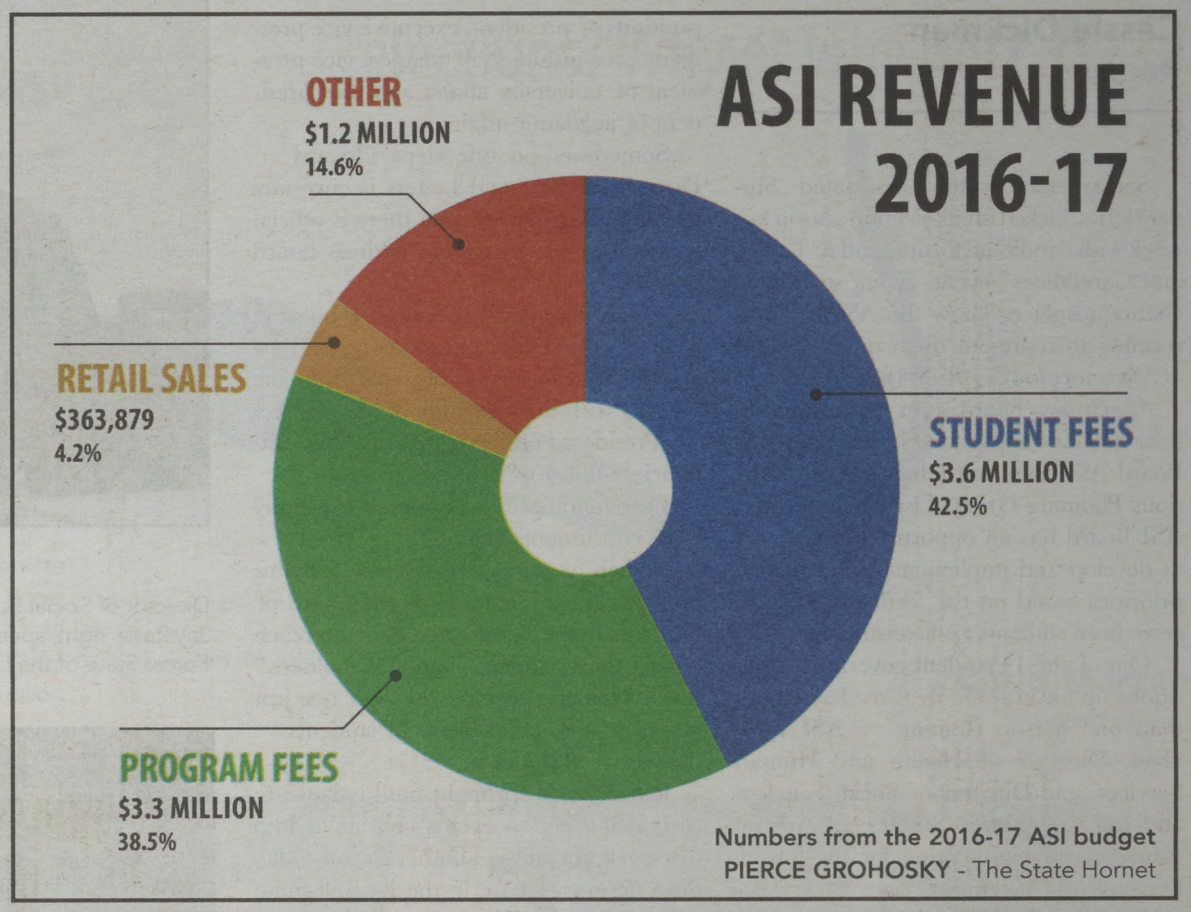
If you've been near The WELL or the Library Quad in recent weeks, chances are you've seen signs advertising students who are running to hold positions in Associated Students, Inc. next academic year.

But with a budget of over $8.9 million and as a provider of several campus programs such as the Children's Center and the Food Pantry, ASI elections can affect a lot more than just resumes.

So before you vote in next week's ASI elections, The State Hornet has prepared this guide to what ASI does and how it operates.

THE $9,000,000 QUESTION

Why should students care about ASI? One big reason — they're paying for it. Student fees account for nearly half of ASI's revenue, which totaled a whopping $8.5 million this academic year. Here's a breakdown of where the rest of the money comes from.



Numbers from the 2016-17 ASI budget
PIERCE GROHOSKY - The State Hornet

Q: WHAT IS ASI?

A: ASI is a nonprofit benefit corporation that every Sacramento State student is a part of by virtue of their enrollment at the school.

ASI's decisions are, therefore, taken as the will of the entire student body. It is run by a board of directors that is composed mostly of student representatives, but on which some university administration representatives also vote.

ASI collected $8.5 million in revenue this academic year and plans to spend $8.9 million.

Q: WHAT DOES ASI DO?

A: ASI oversees several campus organizations and provides money to many more. It is directly in charge of Peak Adventures, the Sac State Aquatic Center on Lake Natoma in Gold River, the KSSU-AM radio station, a children's center where students can have their kids taken care of during classes and a pantry for students facing food insecurity.

ASI also oversees Safe Rides, which provides free transportation on Wednesday-Saturday nights from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. for students, staff and faculty.

The Board of Directors also supplies funding to other programs and clubs on campus. The three highest totals this academic year were for the Dreamer Resource Center (which received $25,000), UNIQUE Cultural Affairs ($30,000) and the Peer Assisted Learning program ($40,000), which provides tutoring in math and science.

Q: WHO'S IN CHARGE?

A: This money is overseen by the ASI Board of Directors, which acts as Sac State's student government. Those are the positions up for election next week.

Meetings are held every other Wednesday in the Foothill Suite of the University Union. The next meeting will be at 2 p.m. on April 12.

There are 16 voting members on the board — 14 of which are students and two of which are representatives of Sac State's president and chief financial officer, respectively. The top official is the ASI President, who is currently Patrick Dorsey.

"ASI must meet our campus presidents' conditions for us to be recognized and sanctioned as an auxiliary to the campus," said Patricia Worley, who has been the executive director of ASI since 2001. "Changes to the California Corporations Code in recent years mandated that all 'directors' of the board must have equal responsibility and equal rights."

Even though the ASI Board of Directors oversees a corporation, it still must comply with the Romero Open Meetings Act because it acts as a student government. The law was designed to ensure that student government meetings are open and transparent.

After this academic year, Dorsey's term will end and he will be replaced by either Nyree Hall or Mia Kagianas.

According to ASI's Operating Rules, the president has 60 percent of their "estimated cost of attendance" at Sac State paid for by a scholarship administered by the ASI Business Office. Other ASI positions, such as executive vice president, vice president of finance, vice president of university affairs and vice president of academic affairs, have 50 percent of their college attendance cost paid for.

Other board members, such as the directors of various colleges and for undeclared and graduate students, get 25 percent of their attendance cost paid for.

Q: WHO PAYS FOR IT?

A: If you're a Sac State student, you do. Every student pays a $64 fee to ASI when they pay for classes. This accounted for $3.6 million of ASI's 2016-17 revenue.

$3.3 million came from fees for participating in ASI programs. For example, people who want to leave their children at the ASI Children's Center pay a fee based on how long their child will be staying there.

Together, these two sources account for 81 percent of ASI's revenue. The rest come primarily from grants and retail sales, such as at the ASI Student Shop on the third floor of Sequoia Hall.

In spite of the money students spend to fund ASI, only 15.5 percent of the student body (4,462 students) voted in the 2016 ASI elections. This number was only a 0.4 percent increase over the previous year.

11 ASI candidates running unopposed

TWO-DAY VOTING PERIOD BEGINS APRIL 12

Cassie Dickman
@the_journi

Sacramento State's Associated Students, Inc. kicked off its election season last week with candidate forums and a "Coffee and Candidates" event, giving students a chance to get to know the ASI hopefuls running to represent them on the Board of Directors for the 2017-18 school year.

"Each new board is an opportunity to hear new and interesting ideas," said ASI Board Associate and Chair for the Elections Planning Group Lisa Dalton. "The ASI Board has an opportunity each year to develop and implement their strategic priorities based on the feedback they receive from students and constituents."

Out of the 14 student government positions up for grabs, only three have more than one person running — ASI President, Director of Health and Human Services, and Director of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies — with no candidate currently vying for the job of Director of Education.

However, ASI Office of Governmental Affairs Civic Engagement Coordinator Sania Kandhro said even if a candidate is running unopposed, students will have an opportunity to vote against someone getting elected, which means they should still do their research.

"If you really don't want them, you can vote no confidence," Kandhro said. "Then the spot will be vacant until someone else comes in."

The lack of competition in this year's ASI elections was not lost on Director of Business Administration candidate Jet Haresco, who vowed at a forum March 30 to get more students involved during his tenure on the board.

"It's a darn shame that no one else is up here running against me," said Haresco. "I want more students to feel they can make a change because I want (them) to fight for what they believe in."

Each college at Sac State has the opportunity to have a representative on the ASI Board of Directors, along with the positions of president, executive vice president, vice president of finance, vice president of university affairs and vice president of academic affairs.

Sometimes no one steps forward — Director of Arts and Letters is currently vacant — but Dalton said there is official protocol in place to help address board openings.

According to ASI bylaws, if a position is or becomes vacant, someone can be appointed with a majority vote from the board, "with the exception of the University President and the University Chief Financial Officer or their designees."

But Dalton said ASI doesn't leave any of its constituents behind.

"When a director position remains unfilled, other members of the board of directors make a concerted effort to reach out to those students and stakeholders," she explained, because they do not just represent a specific college of students — they serve all students.

Just shy of a fortnight until ballots are cast, ASI election events continued into this week, including another forum today from noon to 1 p.m. in the Foothill Suite of the University Union.

Each of the days featured a different set of candidates, who will fielded questions from both a moderator and the audience, and a candidate meet and greet event that took place on April 4 in the Dining Commons from 5-7 p.m.

Students will be able to vote via www.asi.csus.edu — where people can watch previously recorded candidate forums, get information about voting and see who is running for each position — from 8 a.m. April 12 to 7:30 p.m. April 13. There will also be a polling station in the University Union from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. both days.

Students should find out who is running and get a look at their pictures, so they can "hunt them down on campus and just ask (their) questions," said Kandhro, who moderated two of the candidate forums last week. "I want students, as the civic engagement coordinator, to be civically engaged on campus — even (at) the local level (and) state level — because it really matters."

CASSIE DICKMAN - The State Hornet

Director of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies candidates Danial McGhie, left, and Jay Passi, right, speak on campus at a Sacramento State ASI candidate forum March 30 in the Forest Suite of the University Union.

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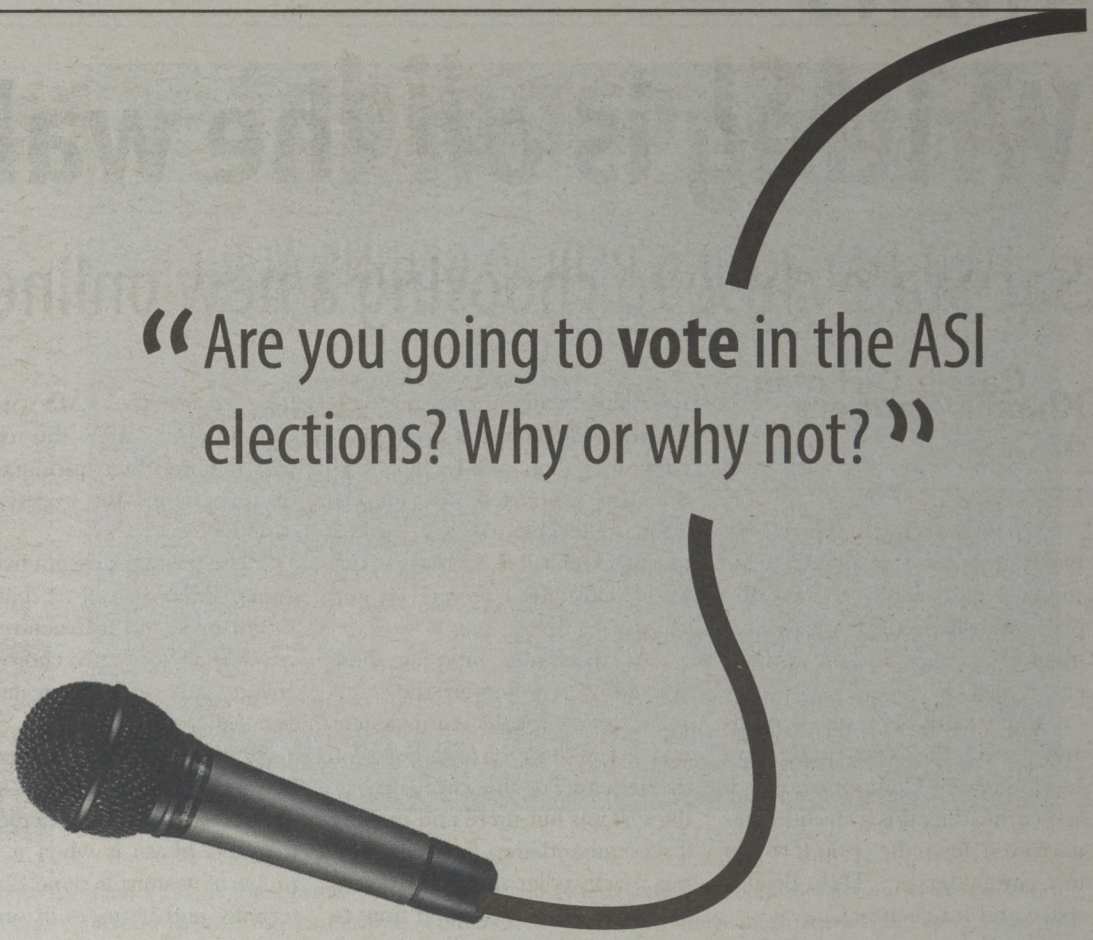
SAC STATE SAYS



On April 12 and 13, Sacramento State students can vote online in the annual spring Associated Students, Inc. elections. Voter turnout has risen in recent years, but has still been low, as just 15 percent of the student body voted in 2016. We asked Sac State students if they plan to vote, and why. Weigh in yourself by using ***#SacStateSays*** *on your favorite social media platform.*

Carlo Marzan
@SultanKoY

"I am, because I feel that ASI has a lot of power, especially for clubs, so if clubs want to do certain things, whoever's in charge of that will determine how that's going to turn out."

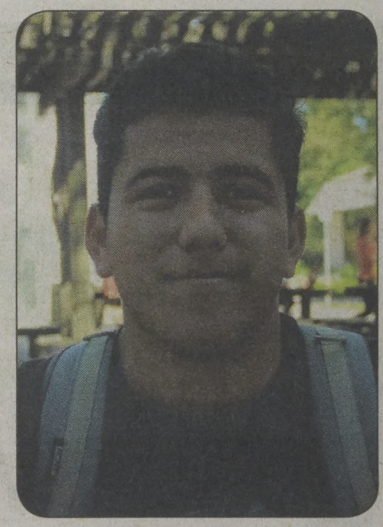
- Celina Gonzalez
Studio art

"No, because I don't really know a lot about what's going on in ASI. It would be really nice to learn a little bit more before making a decision just to make sure it's an informed decision."

- Gaby Martinez
Forensic biology

"No, I don't even know anything about (ASI) to be honest with you. This is like my first semester here so I have no idea what any of that is."

- Peter Janicki
Civil engineering



"I'm probably not. I didn't even know it was going on. I've been seeing like the posters and all. The reason why I'm not — I don't know. I really don't."

- Vincent Avelar
Economics

"I want to, but I have to get more info on it. I didn't vote last time and I feel like I should probably be more involved, you know, and do my part, so that's why I wanted to do (it) this time around."

- Kate Wallace
Art

Writing is on the wall for Blackboard

Sac State close to choosing a new online learning management system

Khanlin Rodgers
@Khanlibear

A new learning management system will soon be provided for students and faculty to take the place of Blackboard, the Sacramento State iteration of which is called SacCT.

After nearly a year of trials and testing, the Next-Generation LMS Steering Committee, which is spearheading this transition, has narrowed down the options to two top contenders — D2L Brightspace and Instructure Canvas.

The change was prompted, in part, by changes happening with Blackboard as a company and the properties of its LMS.

According to Jen Schwedler, Director of the Technology Learning Center, the current version of Blackboard is a self-hosted system that uses local servers that are supported on campus. Soon, Blackboard will switch to Blackboard Ultra and utilize cloud-hosted servers located off-site.

"At the same time as these changes were going on, the chancellor's office for the entire system was going through a process of looking at all of the various learning systems out there and making a recommendation for each campus," Schwedler said. "We decided that it was just a good time to consider a change and take a look at new systems."

The vendors of each platform came to campus during the beginning of the semester and presented demonstrations of all of their products to the LMS Steering Committee to show the technology behind their products and the experience the average user would have.

"The feedback we got from the demonstrations told us that D2L Brightspace and Instructure Canvas were the only two choices that anyone was really interested in," Schwedler said.

Both platforms are currently in software testing phase known as the "sandbox." Schwedler said that this phase is when a broad range of testing is done both internally and by users in order to determine the pros and cons of each system and figure if any changes need to be made to fit specific needs of the user.

"Any new LMS offers new features that can be tailored to whatever the students and faculty need," Schwedler said. "One thing I really like about D2L is that many of the community colleges in the area use it and that means that there will be one less barrier that transfer students will have to worry about in their transition to our school."

In the end, the goal of both systems is to make communication between students and instructors easier and to facilitate a more streamlined learning environment.

"I really like what I've seen so far," student Rebecca McCurry said. "I think I prefer D2L right now simply because it feels a lot easier to use and straight to the point. SacCT always felt cumbersome to me and I feel like it was holding me back."

Joseph Lunsford agreed that D2L would be preferable.

"Right now either system would be a big improvement over what we have now," Lunsford said. "I transferred from American River College and we had D2L there. You'd be surprised how much something as simple as a notification system can help, so I'm looking forward to the change."

Students are invited to test the sandbox themselves and give feedback by taking a guided tour in AIRC room 2015, or by logging in with their regular Sac State credentials and choosing which platform they'd like to test first.

Public testing ends on Friday, April 14, and the new LMS will be finalized shortly afterward.

SACRAMENTO STATE
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CSU faculty and students march on Capitol after tuition fee hike passes

John Ferrannini
@jferrnews

Students and members of the California Faculty Association marched on the State Capitol on Wednesday to support three higher education bills currently in the State Assembly in the wake of last month's tuition increase.

The rally, which was attended by Assemblyman Kevin McCarty, D-Sacramento, among other legislators, was organized to support three bills in particular.

The first is Assembly Bill 393, which would freeze tuition at all public universities and colleges through the 2019-2020 academic year. That bill was introduced by Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva, D-Fullerton and would essentially nullify the tuition hike.

Assembly Bill 21, introduced by Assemblyman Ash Kalra, D-San Jose, would establish additional protections for undocumented students at institutions receiving Cal Grants.

Assembly Bill 1464, introduced by Assemblywoman Shirley Weber, D-San Diego, would mandate that California State University faculty be 75 percent tenured or tenure-track by 2025.

The rally was organized as part of Lobby Day, an opportunity for CSU students and faculty to speak with state legislators and their staffs.

"We've already met with four different assemblymembers," said Charles Toombs, an associate vice president of the CFA and a San Diego State University professor. "Faculty and students are here to support legislation to help students."

Aisha Alshabazz, a senior at San Diego State, came to Sacramento to participate.

"Luckily I'm graduating this semester, but if I wasn't, I would be affected by the tuition increase," she said. "It's affecting our communities and impacting CSU students."

The protesters listened to speakers, including McCarty and Karla, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

"Our CSU faculty members are on the front line not only of teaching but of advocating for more funding and access," McCarty said before the rally.

McCarty has been spearheading a proposal of his own, the "Degrees Not Debt" scholarships.

The scholarship — which for CSU students would be worth $21,000 per year, the average annual total cost of attending a CSU when expenses beyond tuition are included — would be available to students in families making up to $150,000 per year.

Students would have to work 15 hours a week year-round to participate. Students whose families make between $60,000 and $150,000 would pay a portion of it depending on income level. Students whose family income is over $150,000 would not be able to participate.

McCarty praised the fact that there have been so many bills and proposals introduced intended to address the rising costs of college.

"There's a bill for free college and a tax increase, there's (the 'Degrees Not Debt') proposal, there's a Republican bill in the Senate," McCarty said. "I think the more people talking about college affordability, the better."

At 12:50 p.m. the demonstrators marched from the Old Rose Garden on 13th and L streets to the State Capitol.

The March tuition increase is the first in six years and raises tuition by $270 for in-state undergraduate students. Proponents said it was necessary because of a $168 million shortfall between Governor Jerry Brown's budget proposal for the coming year and the CSU's tentative budget.

However, it did pass with the proviso that if the state legislature made up the shortfall the tuition increase would not go into effect.

McCarty was ambivalent about supporting that idea.

"Obviously, we'd support that if there was an unlimited pot of money but we have to evaluate the money and live within our means," McCarty said. "When we see the May revision (of the budget) we can take a look."

JOHN FERRANNINI - The State Hornet

Djibril Diop, the director of Government Relations with the California Faculty Association, speaks at a rally supporting education measures in the State Assembly in downtown Sacramento on Wednesday.

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Alumnus helps lead Israel to World Baseball Classic success

Photo courtesy of Nate Fish

Noah Alvarez
@SuperNoVa_57

It was a tied game between South Korea and Israel, and former Sacramento State baseball player Scott Burcham stepped up to the plate with an opportunity to win the first game of the World Baseball Classic.

Burcham, who played shortstop for the Israeli National Team from Sept. 22 to March 15, delivered by breaking the tie with a game-winning RBI single in the 10th inning of the 2017 WBC opener at the Gocheok Sky Dome in South Korea on March 6.

"It was an awesome and unreal feeling to finally push that game-winning run across," Burcham said. "It was huge for us to start out that tournament with a win."

Both teams had scored a run a piece in the game, but were deadlocked (1-1) since the end of the fifth inning until Burcham's go-ahead hit. Israel won the game by a final score of 2-1, and it was just the start of the team's unforeseen run in the WBC.

Burcham, who played for the Hornets from 2012-2015, helped Israel win the WBC qualifiers last September in Brooklyn, New York and was later named to the final roster in early February.

"Once Alex Bregman (of the Houston Astros) and Ian Kinsler (of the Detroit Tigers) were announced to the USA team, I felt confident that I would make the Israeli roster," Burcham said, after explaining that both players are of Israeli descent. "I felt relieved, but really excited at the same time."

After Israel's opening win over South Korea, the team proceeded to go undefeated in its pool with victories against Chinese Taipei (15-7) and the Kingdom of Netherlands (4-2).

ESPN had Israel listed as the 14th best team (out of 16) in its 2017 WBC power rankings and Sportsbooks gave Israel the lowest odds to win the tournament (+20000). Yet, not once did Israel consider itself an underdog, Burcham said.

After exiting Pool A undefeated (3-0), Israel advanced to Pool E — where it faced heavyweight countries such as Japan, Cuba and Netherlands. Israel extended its winning streak to four games after a 4-1 victory over Cuba, but dropped its next two games in Pool E to Netherlands (12-2) and Japan (8-3).

"There was nothing to hang our heads on," Burcham said after the loss to Japan ended Israel's WBC campaign with a 4-2 record. "We faced some really good teams in the second round and we made it further than many expected."

Burcham, who played last season for the Colorado Rockies' single-A affiliate, said the WBC allowed him an outlet to express his devotion to the game and create a bond with players devoted to winning. Fellow Israeli teammate, pitcher Dean Kremer, developed a friendship with Burcham over the past seven months and the pair have been in contact on a daily basis since the end of the tournament.

"We had a lot of older guys with some big league time that took on the leadership roles," Kremer said. "But even as one of the younger guys on the team — (Burcham) stood out. He's not a big talker, but he knows how to get things done."

Burcham, 23, finished the tournament batting .261 with two RBIs and a 1.000 fielding percentage. Israeli assistant coach Nate Fish noted that Burcham had an impact in every game.

"He is just one of those guys that keeps coming through in big situations and keeps making plays on defense," Fish said. "It gave our pitching staff a lot of confidence knowing Scotty was at shortstop."

Burcham had friends and family rooting for him as they watched him play in the WBC on television. Even his former coach at Sac State, Reggie Christiansen, made sure to tune in despite the concurrent regular season for the Hornets' baseball team.

"I woke up early a lot of times to watch," Christiansen said. "One of the road trips we got home at like two in the morning and the game had just started, so we watched some of it."

Photo courtesy of Scott Burcham

Top, the Israeli National Team was one of 16 teams to play in the 2017 World Baseball Classic in South Korea. Bottom, Sacramento State alumnus Scott Burcham batted .261 with two RBI's and a 1.000 fielding percentage for the Israel in the 2017 World Baseball Classic.

Christiansen said he was pleased to see an underdog like Israel make a run in the tournament and to watch a group of professionals care about winning so much.

"I think it just goes to show that baseball isn't always about talent," Christiansen said. "It's about a group coming together and making winning important."

Burcham's new focus is working his way toward the majors as he will start the 2017 season for the Colorado Rockies Class-A advanced team, the Lancaster JetHawks on April 4.

"The WBC Tournament gave me big league experience, so that should only help me develop," Burcham said. "It was fun to play in an environment where winning meant everything — it reminded me of college."

Photo courtesy of Sac State Athletics

Sacramento State alumna Joanne English will have her No. 21 jersey retired on Saturday at Shea Stadium. English had a 117-49 career record, earned two first-team All-American honors and won Division II National Softball Player of the Year in 1981.

Former Sac State softball star to have jersey retired

Alec Romero

@romero_alec

The No. 21 jersey of former Sacramento State right-handed pitcher Joanne English will be retired this Saturday.

English becomes the third Sac State softball player to have her number retired in program history, joining Susie Bugliarello (No. 17 in 2005) and Lindy Winkler (No. 3 in 2014). From 1978 to 1981, English posted a 117-49 career record while being a two-time first team All-American and winning Division II National Softball Player of the Year in 1981.

"It's exciting," English said after Sac State softball coach Lori Perez made the announcement at the 50-year softball reunion on Jan. 21. "I was totally shocked."

English was the starting pitcher for former Sac State coach E.J. McConkie. She coached the Hornets for 12 seasons (1975-86) and helped helm two deep runs in the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women Division II softball tournament in 1980 and 1981 with English on the roster.

"She was always upbeat — never a problem on the team and got along with everyone," McConkie said.

Sac State was host to the AIAW Tournament in 1980 during English's junior season when the Hornets placed third overall in the nation.

"Hosting the tournament and finishing in third place in 1980 was good practice for us," English said.

English set a single-season record with 27 wins in 294 innings pitched in her senior season, and helped lead the Hornets to the 1981 AIAW Championship game against C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University. English tossed a complete game and struck out the last batter to win the first national championship in Sac State softball history.

"We've had a history of great pitchers and Joanne English is right there on the top of the list," Perez said.

During the 1981 championship run, English posted a 7-0 postseason record while throwing three complete games and finishing with a 0.43 ERA.

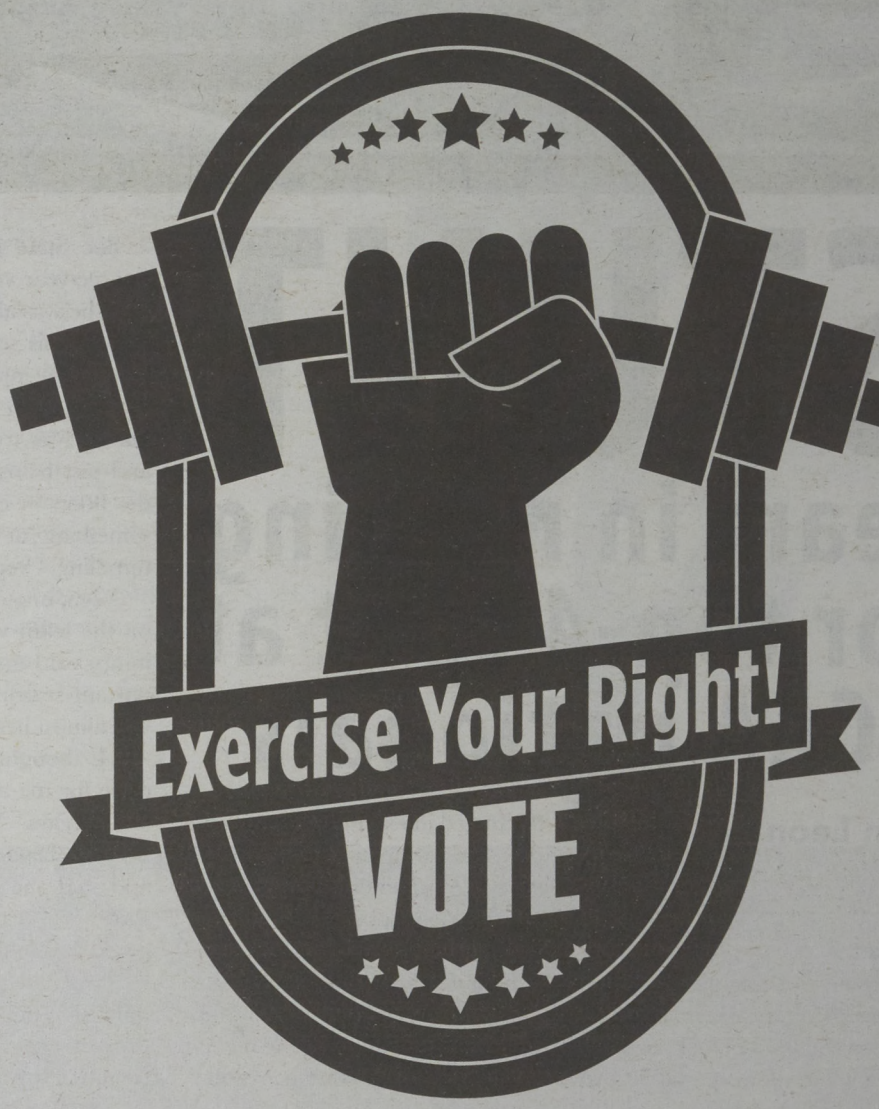
English was known for changing her jersey number on a consistent basis to coincide with her age each season — except for her freshman year (1978), when she wore No. 27. English went on to choose 19 (1979), 20 (1980) and 21 in 1981.

Sac State chose the No. 21 jersey to be retired since it coincided with English's final season and the year of the national championship victory.

"We were excited to announce that we were going to retire her jersey, so coming up this weekend we're expecting a lot of alumni back here in the stands," Perez said.

The retirement ceremony will take place between the first (noon) and second game (2 p.m.) of the Hornets' doubleheader against the Montana Grizzlies at Shea Stadium.

VOTE ONLINE
at www.asi.csus.edu



Student Government Elections
April 12 & 13

associated students, inc.

MATTHEW DYER - The State Hornet

STUNT team in running for top-4 spot at NCAA nationals

Sam Leonard
@leonard6797

After a 2-3 start to the 2016-17 season and adding three new coaches to the program, the Sacramento State STUNT team is pursuing a top-four spot at NCAA Division I nationals.

Sac State, which entered its final regular-season competition ranked fourth among 31 college teams, defeated Cal Poly on Sunday by a score of 17-10. In order to qualify for nationals in Dallas from April 28-30, the Hornets must be ranked top four in the nation by the College STUNT Association.

"For us, it's a good start to be ranked as high as we are," Sac State co-head coach Maggie Steele said. "We just have to continue going as high as we can."

Steele, a former STUNT athlete and 2014 graduate at Sac State, helped lead the Hornets to an 11-4 record. The team has fluctuated in its ranking during the past four competitions from third to sixth, and landing at its current fourth place spot as of press time.

"From then to now, the changes happen almost every practice to improve and change, and to make sure that we're keeping the highest level on the performance floor," Steele said.

Steele — who is in her first coaching season with the Hornets — isn't the only addition to the coaching staff this year as James Blunk, a former Sac State cheerleader, and Vanessa Kitley joined the team this season.

"It's different — Sierra College was lower-level, just starting out and growing," Kitley said after coaching at Sierra College and Folsom High School. "High school's still talented, but obviously the skill level at the collegiate level is much more."

Apart from the addition of three new coaches, the team battled injuries throughout the season.

Sac State junior Gabie Vega, a three-year veteran on the team, said she was almost unable to participate this season due to a torn labrum she injured back in August.

"My main goal going into this season was trying to do my best and just being able to be out on the floor — even if I was doing something as basic as level-one tumbling," Vega said.

Vega, one of the many athletes on the team who has suffered an injury, said this was her most important season to date because it was almost her last.

"I thought cheerleading was done for me and it's been my life for 15 years," Vega said.

Vega has made a full recovery and said she is pleased with the strides the team has taken to improve during this season.

"We had a rough start but I think that that's only motivated us to work even harder … and now we're really fired (up) to get where we need to be to get to that top four to go to nationals," Vega said.

Sophomore Lindsey Herring, who was coached by former head coach Kori Thomas before she stepped down, said the transition from Thomas to the three new coaches has been challenging. Thomas helped lead the Hornets to a fourth-place Division I finish in 2016.

"They definitely coach in very, very different ways," Herring said. "Also, what's hard is (Thomas) knew the sport a little bit better than Maggie did, but she's picking it up really fast."

However, the combination of Steele, Blunk and Kitley has helped the team's physical conditioning and allowed each of the athletes to have one-on-one time with the coaches, Herring said.

"They've worked with me months and months to try to get me back on the team," transfer-student Caleigh Swanson said after suffering multiple concussions at her previous college due to cheerleading. "(They did) everything they possibly could so that I could participate and be a part of the group."

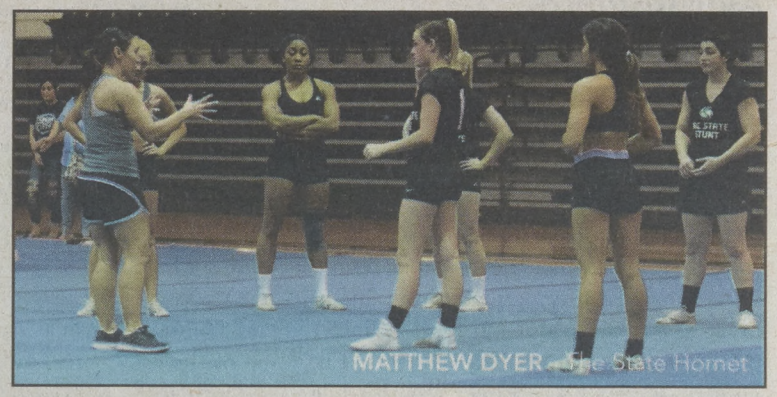
Caleigh, who is in her first season as a STUNT athlete, spoke about the transition to STUNT and how the sport compares to cheerleading.

"Sideline cheerleading is cheering on the team (and) pumping up the crowd, but this (is) a mix between gymnastics and cheerleading," Swanson said. "It's more intense — you have to rely on each other as a team all the way through."

The Hornets will learn if they'll be asked to rely on each other one more time at nationals sometime this week.

"(My motivation) is the other girls on the team," Swanson said. "Knowing how hard everybody else works makes me want to be better and just help the team as much as I can because we all strive to be the best we can be — and I want to help them get there."

> "We had a rough start but I think that that's only motivated us to work even harder … and now we're really fired (up) to get where we need to be to get to that top four to go to nationals."
>
> **- Gabie Vega**
> *Sacramento State junior STUNT member*



MATTHEW DYER - The State Hornet

Top, the Sacramento State STUNT team finished its regular season 11-4 and is in the hunt for a top-four spot at NCAA Division I nationals in Dallas, Texas from April 28-30. Bottom, Sacramento State co-head coach Maggie Steele, left, explains a routine to the team.

Hornets kick off 7-game spring season

Andre Newell
@andre_newell24

After losing 13 seniors to graduation, the Sacramento State women's soccer team will look to reshape its roster during the seven-game spring scrimmage season.

The Hornets, which finished 2016 with a trip to the Big Sky Tournament semifinals after going 8-7-4, played their first scrimmage against Cal to a 0-0 draw on March 12.

Sac State coach Randy Dedini, who received his third Big Sky Conference Coach of the Year award last season, said he was pleased with the team's performance after only being able to field 13 players against the Golden Bears.

"Just about every year, Cal is a top-20 team in the country and I thought that our girls stuck to the game plan in condensing the field and tried to create some counter-attacks," Dedini said. "We didn't have many subs and our girls were tired, but they were strong mentally and kept fighting and battling, so I am really proud of them."

The Hornets will play five more games in April — one of which will be at Hornet Field. These scrimmages will help the team transition into 2017 without last year's leading scorer Jennifer Lum.

"These are important minutes for some of the people who haven't played much," Dedini said. "It is their opportunity to win some spots before some (of) next year's class comes in so it's very important to see what we have now that we've lost 13 players and start building on that. I think that the Cal game was a good start."

In its second spring season game, Sac State lost to the Sacramento Storm — a semi-professional team — by the score of 2-1.

"I thought for about 60-70 minutes we played a really strong game, stuck to our good game plan (and) we had some good chances to score and didn't put the ball in the back of the net," Dedini said. "And that's a good team — they're a professional team, they pass the ball really well and so we've got to do a little bit better job keeping the ball so we don't have to chase so much and defend so much."

While Sac State will be without five all-conference players next season, the team brings back sophomore Caitlin Prothe (midfielder) who earned an all-Big Sky honorable mention in 2016, and last year's co-Big Sky Top Newcomer Mikayla Reed (freshman midfielder).

Also returning in 2017 are juniors Chelsea Arnold (defender) and Kayla Collins (forward) — who have both earned Big Sky honors in past seasons.

"Right now, we're just trying to fill positions and see who is best in what position and see who works best together," Collins said. "Especially with (the Cal game) everyone worked so well together and worked really hard. We're really looking forward to the fall because we're going to get more players and we're going to have bigger breaks so that people can work harder for longer, but right now it is all about effort."

Sac State will get a chance to develop its offense and see what the defensive side of the ball will look like without 2016 Big Sky Defensive MVP Rachel Leonard.

"I thought our defense (in the Cal game) was pretty solid," Collins said. "That was something that we were worried about because we lost our two center defenders. Offensively, it is harder to play with less players because you have to keep making runs up and down the field — hopefully once we have more people and we get more fit as we are playing more games in the spring, we will see more offensive power."

With 13 seniors gone, Sac State will continue to build team chemistry, which junior goalkeeper Meghan Glisson said is improving.

"It's a lot different but we're getting more together," she said. "During practices they're going slower, but we're getting the chemistry back together. We have three new girls who came in this spring that are really making a difference and our chemistry's getting there."

Sac State — which ended its regular season by tying the longest winning streak (six) in program history before falling 3-2 to Northern Arizona in the Big Sky semifinals on Nov. 4 — will continue its scrimmage season against Chico State Sunday at the University Soccer Stadium in Chico.

Additional reporting by Will Moon

ANDRO PALTING - The State Hornet

Sacramento State junior midfielder Andrea Boehm attempts to get the ball from Cal goalkeeper Emily Boyd in the final seconds of the scrimmage at Hornet Field on March 12.

Sacramento State alumni Donte Morris, left, and Dominic Morris, right, created the app 'Hoop Maps,' which allows users to find pickup basketball games in their area. The app was featured on KOVR-TV and ESPN's morning show 'SC6,' and has since been downloaded over 15,000 times.

Twin alumni gain national attention for pickup basketball mobile app

Thousands of users download brainchild of Morris brothers

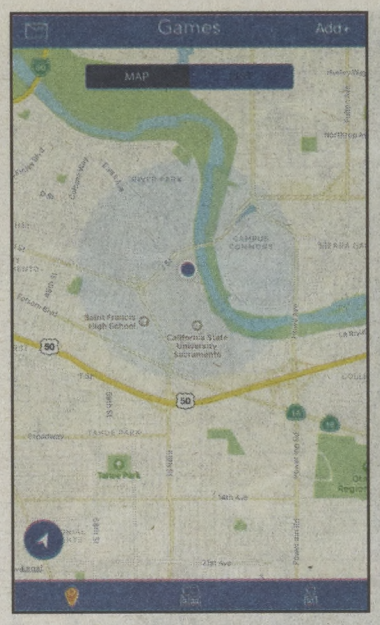
Andre Newell
@andre_newell24

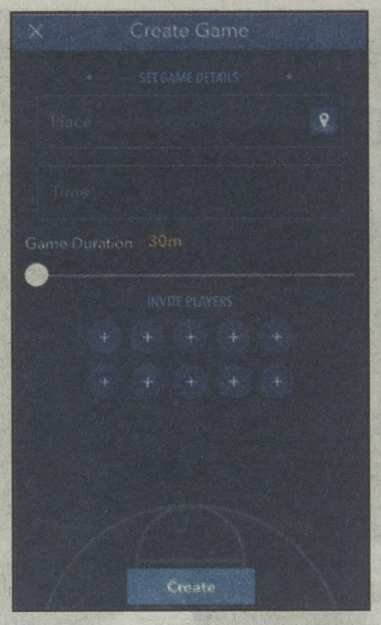
Two Sacramento State graduates and twin brothers have created a new way for people to turn their phones into a pickup basketball database with their new app creation, Hoop Maps.

Dominic and Donte Morris, 28, both graduated from Sac State in 2011 and have been basketball fanatics their entire lives. The twins grew up playing pickup basketball, but as they grew to be adults, a good game was a hard thing to come by at the local parks.

"We would hoop at a certain park consistently and one thing that we noticed (was) that every third day of the week we would go to that same park and it would be empty," said Dominic, who graduated with a degree in marketing. "That was when we said, 'There has to be a way to know exactly where there are games being played instead of going to a park and hoping there are games being played.' "

Thus, Hoop Maps was created. The app allows users to create a profile, check in with a location and schedule an active pickup basketball game. Users also have the





option of inviting friends to join them.

In 2014 — seven years after the twins established the Morris Baseball League in their college dorms — the idea of doing something to fix their hoops problem materialized. In 2015, the twins began to research the pros and cons of using an app to facilitate players.

"One of the challenges that we faced was making the app as simple as possible," Dominic said. "We wanted to design something that was easy where we can get these people to add and share a game with their friends."

Hoop Maps was released in June 2016, but the twins struggled to market the app to a larger audience, according to Donte, who graduated from Sac State with a degree in general management.

"That has been the biggest factor for us," Donte said in regards to publicity. "Every time someone posts a game in the area, we will take a screenshot of it and put it up on our social media for people to see. The app also features a 25-mile radius notification (for) anyone that is looking to play a pickup game."

The app was downloaded about 1,000 times before a feature segment aired on KOVR-TV, and it went on to reach 15,000 downloads after the feature aired.

The coverage of Hoop Maps also increased after the app was featured on the ESPN morning show "SC6" on March 27, co-hosted by Jemele Hill and Michael Smith, who called the app a "dream come true." It also been talked about on TechCrunch and SportTechie, two popular technology blogs.

Sherri Morris, the twins' mother, said that both Dominic and Donte have always had a strong work ethic and described the publicity that the app has been getting as "exciting."

"They work well together, they always have," she said. "They have always been quick thinkers. If they have an idea, they will do the research together and figure out a way to make it happen."

The majority of Hoop Maps' downloads come from people living in Oklahoma — which features the most downloads — Arizona and Indiana, Dominic said.

Aside from knowing where pickup basketball games are being played, the twins believe the app will be beneficial to all users from a friendship standpoint.

"This is a great way to meet new people — especially when you are new to the city and not too familiar with the area," Donte said after mentioning the target audience has been millennials in the 13-24 age range.

With summer just around the corner, Hoop Maps has stepped into the spotlight at the right time.

"Summer is very important for our industry," Donte said. "That is when we will really be going heavy with our marketing and partnering up with sponsors. We will also be coming up with a strategy for maintaining the players that are already using the app."

"We would hoop at a certain park consistently and one thing that we noticed is that every third day of the week we would go to that same park and it would be empty."

- Dominic Morris

Hoop Maps co-creator

Upper left, Hoop Maps displays a map of the user's area with pins dropped denoting nearby games. Right, users may schedule their own game with Hoop Maps and invite nearby players to join them.

PIERCE GROHOSKY - The State Hornet

10 years of PRIDE

Events designed to highlight, celebrate LGBT community

Image courtesy of the Sacramento State PRIDE Center

Last year's Queer Picnic, pictured, was the first to be sponsored by the PRIDE Center as part of Sacramento State's Pride Week. This year the Queer Picnic will be held on Tuesday, April 11 at noon on the lawn north of the Library Quad.

John Ferrannini
@jferrnews

The Sacramento State PRIDE Center is preparing for Pride Week, a series of educational and cultural events intended to celebrate and inform students about the LGBT community.

Pride Week kicks off on April 6 with an evening of spoken word with Los Angeles poet and transgender activist Jade Phoenix Martinez in the University Union Ballroom at 7:30 p.m.

Two highlights of Pride Week are the Queer Picnic on April 11 at noon on the lawn north of the Library Quad and the Makeup Demo Workshop the following day at 1:30 p.m. in the University Union's Orchard Suite.

The Queer Picnic, which began last year, was inspired by similar events in the history of the LGBT rights movement, according to PRIDE Center Coordinator Chris Kent.

"That comes from the San Francisco Pride Festival — a big part of it is a picnic at Dolores Park," Kent said. "It started last year and some of us were like, 'this is the first time we've eaten out here. It's really pretty.' "

Kent said that students are invited to bring their own blankets and food to the picnic, which is meant to be a place "for folks to have fun and be themselves in (a) public space" and will be accompanied by a fair featuring campus and off-campus organizations that want to provide support or resources to LGBT students.

"It's essentially a resource fair in the most important aspect," said Kiana Medina, a student program assistant with the PRIDE Center. "It takes what we think everyone knows — as an activist — and lets the rest of the community know. So Full Circle Project will be there (as well as) Gender Health Center, and then we'll eat together."

The Full Circle Project is a campus organization aimed at improving graduation and retention rates among Asian-American students. The Gender Health Center is a non-profit located in midtown Sacramento that provides health-related services to LGBT people, particularly gender-nonconforming and transgender individuals.

The Makeup Demo Workshop will be a new addition to Pride Week. Its focus is on educating people who want to use makeup but may not have had the opportunity in the past.

"Maybe they don't feel comfortable buying it or they don't have the means, so I think it's important to provide an open space," Medina said. "This isn't about gender; makeup is an art form. Anyone can wear makeup."

Kent said that transgender people often have the most difficulty learning how to do makeup because of societal stigmas.

"A few folks have mentioned that some of us were not able to practice makeup, play with makeup. If we're talking about trans women, many weren't allowed to do it," Kent said. "In some ways, it's incredibly liberating. It's very affirming to put on makeup and play with it. "

Yozantli Lagunas Guerrero, a student program assistant, is going to help interested people apply makeup.

"We're teaching folks eyeshadow, eyebrows, contouring and lips. I'm probably going to help out with the eyeshadow part because that's more my area of expertise, what little I have," Lagunas Guerrero said. "We're seeing if any folks in the community or anyone would like to donate some makeup, like any samples or anything of that sort."

Kent said that all the makeup used will be ensured to have been "humanely produced," and Lagunas Guerrero said that the PRIDE Center is looking for a model so that people can watch and learn.

"Everyone can wear makeup regardless of your gender identity (or) your expression," they said.

Thursday, April 6
UU Ballroom
7:30 p.m.

An evening of spoken word with Los Angeles-based transgender activist Jade Phoenix Martinez.

Saturday, April 8
University Union
All day

The Asian Pacific Islander/Queer Conference will focus on the intersection between the LGBT and Asian Pacific Islander experiences.

Monday, April 10
PRIDE Center
1:30 p.m.

'Rediscovering Pride' is a talk that will focus on 'decentering homonormativity and homonationalism at pride celebrations.'

Thursday, April 13
UU Orchard Suite
1:30 p.m.

'Where's my orgasm?' is a talk by Dr. Patty Woodward about the science behind orgasms.

Thursday, April 13
PRIDE Center
3:30 p.m.

'Chat on Polyamory' is a talk with a particular emphasis on comparison and jealousy.

Friday, April 14
UU Forest Suite
1:30 p.m.

A double feature of the films 'They/Them' and 'Mi Familia 2.'

SPRING SERENITY

Sac State grows more than just students — serene study spots are also in bloom

Rin Carbin
@ss_horo

With April being National Garden Month and Earth Day occurring on April 22, many people are taking the opportunity to raise awareness about the environment and appreciate and harmonize with their surroundings.

And Sacramento State, with its abundant trees, shrubs and grass, may just be the perfect place to do all of that.

For some students, spending time outside is a great way to escape the monotony of drab classrooms and get some fresh air — especially with the onset of warmer, fresher spring weather.

Here's a list of places on campus where students can study or enjoy a lazy afternoon in nature.

MYHA SANDERFORD - The State Hornet

MAIN QUAD

Located between River Front Center and Lassen Hall is a vast expanse of grass, trees and a stone walkway. Students often lie in the grass to nap or study during the middle of the day. And it's near a food court — what better time to nap than after lunch?

BETWEEN CAPISTRANO HALL AND AMADOR HALL

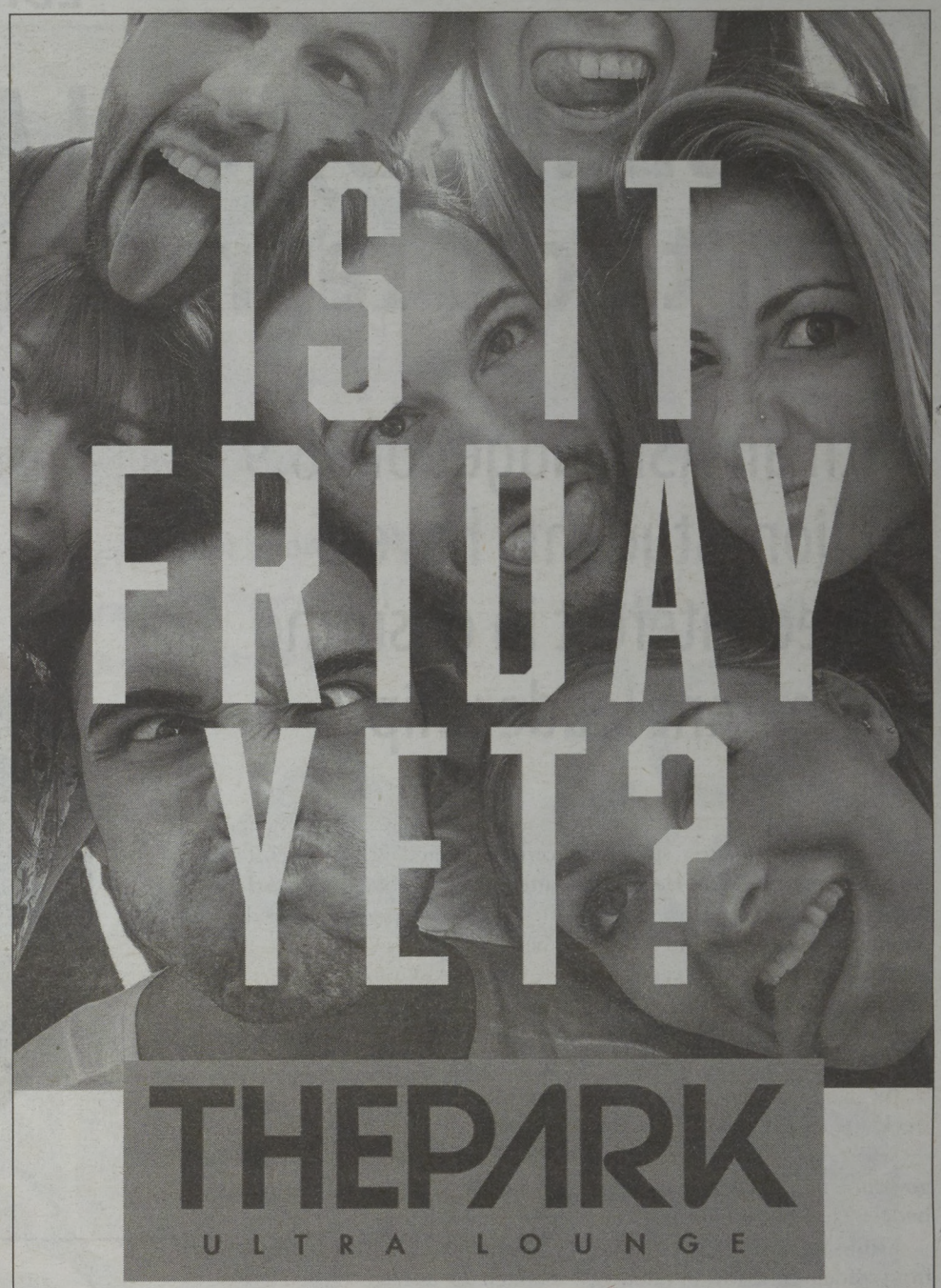
Between Capistrano Hall and Amador Hall is a mixture of open expanses of grass and tables shaded by trees, making it ideal for all types of relaxers and test-preppers. This area is similar to the Main Quad, but has fewer students passing by or resting and a different type of sound for students looking to avoid voices — music can be heard wafting from music students practicing in Capistrano Hall throughout the day.

MYHA SANDERFORD - The State Hornet

RIN CARBIN- The State Hornet

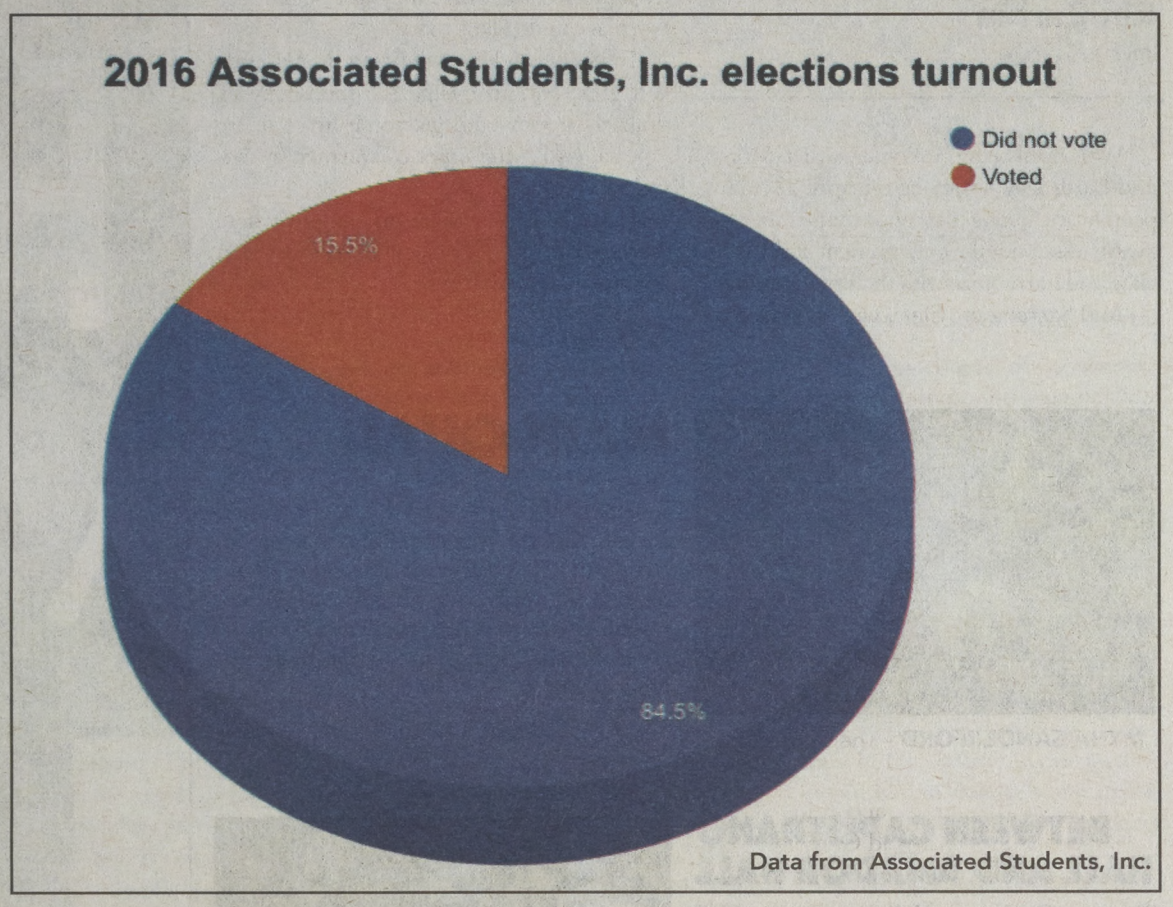
BEHIND FOLSOM HALL

For students who take a class or two in the isolated Folsom Hall, the area between Folsom Hall and Parking Structure IV features a courtyard with plentiful greenery and seating — an escape from the pre-class crowds and noise. Despite the nearby U.S. Highway 50, the sound is fairly muted and the parking structure blocks the highway from view.



Editorial: Abysmal ASI voter turnout won't hold representatives accountable

With an ASI budget of $8.9 million, students have a vested interest in ensuring competent leadership



JOHN FERRANNINI - The State Hornet

In 2016, only 4,462 Sacramento State students (15.5 percent of the student body) voted in the Associated Students, Inc. elections. This was a small climb from 2015's figure of 15.1 percent turnout.

Sacramento State students have the opportunity to elect new Associated Students, Inc. representatives on April 12 and 13.

But if the past two years are any indication, only 15 percent of the student body is actually going to vote.

As we reported earlier this week, the ASI Board of Directors — which operates as our student government — has an operating budget of almost $9 million.

Most of this money comes from students one way or another, with 42 percent coming directly from a $64 fee every Sac State student pays with tuition.

Yet it would be mistaken to argue that all Sac State students need to do to ensure that their money is being well spent is to take a few minutes to vote in ASI elections.

This year, after all, only three of the 14 seats up for election — ASI President, Director of Health and Human Services and Director of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies — have more than one candidate running. One of the seats, Director of Education, has no candidate at all.

ASI's money doesn't just go to campus programs, either.

According to ASI's Operating Rules, the president has 60 percent of their "estimated cost of attendance" at Sac State paid for by a scholarship administered by the ASI Business Office.

Other ASI positions, such as executive vice president, vice president of finance, vice president of university affairs and vice president of academic affairs, have 50 percent of their college attendance cost paid for. Directors of the various colleges get 25 percent covered.

And if $8.9 million isn't enough to assuage the collective apathy of our student body toward ASI, there is the issue of accountability.

We are the only people who can ensure that students are adequately represented and advocated for.

The administration's two voting seats on our student government aren't going to do it, after all.

A case in point: earlier this semester it was revealed that there were untested drinking fountains and other water sources on campus after some had tested positive for lead, that there wasn't (as yet) a timeline to test them, and that the school wasn't releasing the locations of the untested fountains.

The State Hornet reached out to ASI President Patrick Dorsey to see what our student representatives had to say about it.

Dorsey used the opportunity to parrot the administration's talking points, saying that the school was doing "everything it can" on lead contamination when clearly, it wasn't.

If more students had been pressuring ASI to look out for their health and safety, maybe Dorsey's answer and ASI's response would've been a little more forceful.

Next week, we have the opportunity to vote. But going forward we have the opportunity to keep up the heat to make sure we're getting our money's worth.

And on a campus of over 30,000, let's not leave any seats uncontested next time.

"If $8.9 million isn't enough to assuage the collective apathy of our student body toward ASI, there is the issue of accountability. We are the only people who can ensure that students are adequately represented and advocated for."

Opinion: This time, let's leave the birds on campus alone

Will Moon
@MoonMan0305

Wild turkeys have been roaming around Sacramento State for a few years now, and no, they are not part of the "farm-to-fork" trend.

So where did they come from?

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife began releasing wild-caught turkeys — most commonly of the Rio Grande subspecies — from Texas and other Southwestern states for hunters in the 1970s, but stopped releasing the birds in 1999 following a lawsuit from the California Native Plant Society.

While the birds are no longer being released in the state, some 242,000 turkeys populate California and are still game for licensed hunters, according to the Department of Fish and Game.

Now don't get any ideas — the turkeys still cannot be hunted on most public lands.

Even if hunting the birds on campus was legal, these turkeys have found a home at Sac State and should be accepted by the community. Students aren't permitted to go around shooting squirrels, so they shouldn't be allowed to kill turkeys, even if they do taste better than rodents.

With few predators in the state, the turkeys have grown more prevalent in urban areas across Northern California and the Central Valley, and have been well-documented by Capital Public Radio, as well as Sac State students and President Robert Nelsen on Twitter.

The gobblers aren't the first poultry to occupy Sac State. As many know, chickens once wandered campus freely but were removed in 2004 due to possible health concerns — shortly after former president Alexander Gonzalez arrived to the university.

This time, Sac State should leave the birds be.

Californian turkeys drew national attention in October when the Davis City Council voted 4-1 to implement a plan that would trap and relocate the birds away from urban areas. After months of destroying vegetation, defecating in public spaces and terrifying residents, the turkeys pushed the typically animal-friendly city of Davis to take action.

That said, this council vote was held following dozens of complaints of hostile turkeys walking into resident's yards, circling people's cars and even chasing people.

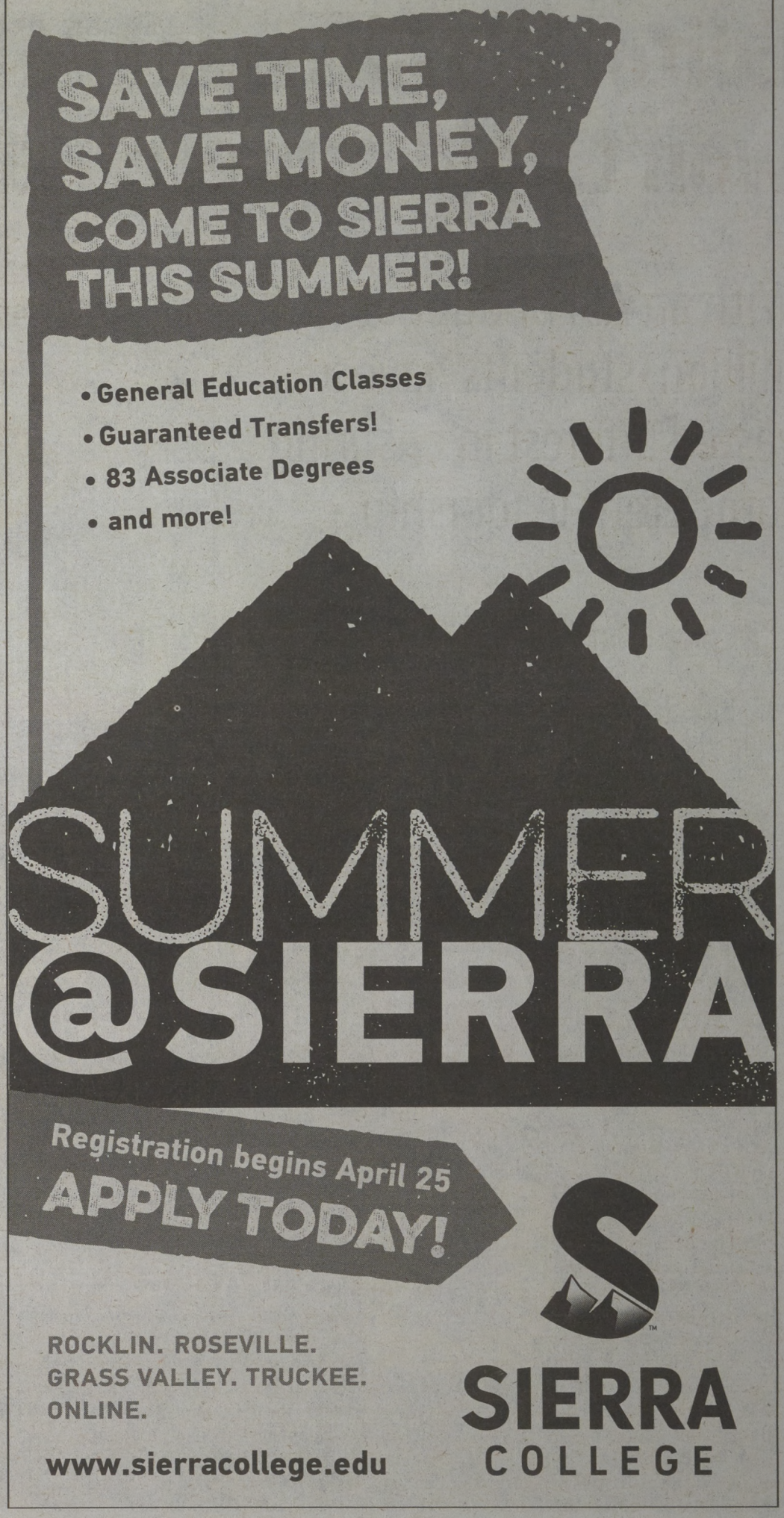
Unlike the beloved squirrels, the turkeys don't harass students for food in the Library Quad or outside of River Front Center.

Most of the flocks around the university can be spotted on the outskirts of campus — near College Town Drive and the Facilities Services building adjacent to the athletic fields — rarely impeding students walking to class or disturbing anyone around the heart of campus.

Turkeys may not be as cute as squirrels or chickens, but that doesn't mean they should be exiled. Beside, with thousands of turkeys living across Sacramento County, keeping the feathery toms off campus would be a challenge.

Though not particularly known for their intelligence, turkeys were once described by Benjamin Franklin as "Bird(s) of Courage." With tuition increasing and students seemingly more politically polarized than ever, perhaps a winged symbol of bravery is what Sac State needs right now.

As long as the turkeys at Sac State do not pose any immediate threat to students, faculty, visitors or campus vegetation, why bother them?



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